

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A microwave packaging material comprising:  
a substrate;  
a microwave interactive material layer supported upon the substrate,  
wherein the microwave interactive material layer and the substrate together  
form a laminate material; and  
an indentation pattern formed in the nature of a scored impression in the laminate  
material; ~~wherein~~

~~the microwave packaging material supports a food product;  
the food product overlies at least a portion of the indentation pattern; and  
the portion of the indentation pattern directs moisture migration underneath  
the food product.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A microwave packaging material comprising:  
a substrate;  
a microwave interactive material layer supported upon the substrate,  
wherein the microwave interactive material layer and the substrate together  
form a laminate material; and

an indentation pattern formed in only one side of the laminate material; ~~wherein~~

~~the microwave packaging material supports a food product;  
the microwave interactive layer generates heat upon impingement by  
microwave energy;~~

~~the indentation pattern creates a gap filled with air between the microwave  
packaging material and a cooking platform in a microwave oven when the microwave  
packaging material is placed in the microwave oven; and~~

~~the air in the gap provides insulation between the microwave packaging  
material and the cooking platform during operation of the microwave, reducing the effect of  
the cooking platform as a heat sink and improving the cooking ability of the microwave  
packaging material.~~

3. (Currently Amended) A microwave packaging material comprising:  
a substrate;  
a microwave interactive material layer supported upon the substrate,  
wherein the microwave interactive material layer and the substrate together  
form a laminate material; and

an indentation pattern formed in the laminate material[[]], wherein the laminate material maintains intermediate, flat, coplanar surfaces between portions of the indentation pattern

~~the microwave packaging material supports a food product;~~

~~the indentation pattern creates a gap between the microwave packaging material and a cooking platform in a microwave oven when the microwave packaging material is placed in the microwave oven; and~~

~~when microwave energy generated by the microwave oven propagates through the gap, the incidence of microwave energy impinging upon the food product increases and the heating ability of the microwave oven is improved.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 1, 2, or 3, wherein the microwave interactive layer comprises a susceptor film.

5. (Currently Amended) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 1, 2, or 3, wherein the microwave interactive layer comprises a microwave reflective, shielding layer.

6. (Original) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 5, wherein the microwave reflective, shielding layer comprises an abuse-tolerant metallic pattern.

7. (Currently Amended) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 1, 2, 3, 89, 90, or 91, wherein the substrate comprises paper.

8. (Currently Amended) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 1, 2, 3, 89, 90, or 91, wherein the substrate comprises paperboard.

9. (Currently Amended) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 1, 2, 3, 89, 90, or 91, wherein the substrate comprises plastic.

10. (Currently Amended) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 1, 2, 3, 89, 90, or 91, wherein a first portion of the indentation pattern is wider than a second portion of the indentation pattern.

11. (Currently Amended) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 1, 2, 3, 89, 90, or 91, wherein a first portion of the indentation pattern is deeper than a second portion of the indentation pattern.

the substrate comprises a first side opposite a side adjacent to the microwave interactive layer;

the microwave interactive layer comprises a second side opposite a side adjacent to the substrate; and

the indentation pattern comprises a convex area on at least one of the first side of the substrate and the second side of the microwave interactive layer.

13. (Currently Amended) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 12, wherein

the microwave packaging material supports a food product; and

the convex area provides a barrier that directs moisture migration from a first area underneath the food product to a second area underneath the food product.

14. (Currently Amended) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 12, wherein

the microwave packaging material supports a food product; and

the convex area provides a barrier that directs moisture migration from a first area underneath the food product to a second area not covered by the food product.

15. (Currently Amended) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 12, wherein

the microwave packaging material supports a food product; and

the convex area provides a barrier that prevents moisture from migrating from a first area underneath the food product to a second area underneath the food product.

16. (Currently Amended) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 1, 2, or 3, wherein

the substrate comprises a first side opposite a side adjacent to the microwave interactive layer;

the microwave interactive layer comprises a second side opposite a side adjacent to the substrate;

and the indentation pattern comprises a concave area on at least one of the first side of the ~~base~~-substrate and the second side of the microwave interactive layer.

17. (Currently Amended) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 16, wherein

the microwave packaging material supports a food product; and

17. (Currently Amended) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 16, wherein

the microwave packaging material supports a food product; and

the concave area provides a channel that allows moisture to migrate from a first area underneath the food product to a second area underneath the food product.

18. (Currently Amended) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 16, wherein

the microwave packaging material supports a food product; and

the concave area provides a channel that allows moisture to migrate from a first area underneath the food product to a second area not covered by the food product.

19. (Currently Amended) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 16, wherein

the microwave packaging material supports a food product; and

the concave area provides a channel that prevents moisture from migrating from a first area underneath the food product to a second area underneath the food product.

20. (Original) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 12, wherein

the indentation pattern comprises the convex area on the first side of the substrate;

the microwave interactive layer generates heat upon impingement by microwave energy;

the convex area creates a gap filled with air between the microwave packaging material and a cooking platform in a microwave oven when the microwave packaging material is placed in the microwave oven; and

the air in the gap provides insulation between the microwave packaging material and the cooking platform during operation of the microwave, reducing the effect of the cooking platform as a heat sink and improving the cooking ability of the microwave packaging material.

21. (Original) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 12, wherein

the indentation pattern comprises the convex area on the first side of the substrate;

the convex area creates a gap between the microwave packaging material and a cooking platform in a microwave oven when the microwave packaging material is placed in

the microwave oven; and

when microwave energy generated by the microwave oven propagates through the gap, the incidence of microwave energy impinging upon the food product increases and the heating ability of the microwave oven is improved.

22. (Currently Amended) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 1, 2, 3, 89, 90, or 91, wherein the indentation pattern comprises at least one line.

23. (Currently Amended) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 1, 2, 3, 89, 90, or 91, wherein the indentation pattern comprises a plurality of lines.

24. (Original) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 23, wherein the plurality of lines comprises radii extending approximately from a center of the microwave packaging material to a peripheral margin of the packaging material.

25. (Original) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 24, wherein the radii extend to a peripheral edge of the packaging material.

26. (Withdrawn) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 24, wherein a first subset of the radii extends further into a peripheral margin than a second subset of the radii.

27. (Withdrawn) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 24, wherein a first subset of the radii extends closer to the center of the microwave packaging material than a second subset of the radii.

28. (Withdrawn) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 24, wherein the radii are formed in a zigzag pattern.

29. (Withdrawn) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 28, wherein the zigzag pattern comprises a first set of segments parallel to the radial direction and a second set of segments perpendicular to the radial direction.

30. (Withdrawn) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 24, wherein the radii are formed in a sinusoidal pattern.

31. (Withdrawn) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 23, wherein the plurality of lines extends from a first peripheral edge of the packaging material to a second peripheral edge of the packaging material.

34. (Withdrawn) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 33, wherein the second array of parallel lines is perpendicular to the first array of parallel lines.

35. (Withdrawn) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 1, 2, 3, 89, 90, or 91, wherein the indentation pattern comprises an array of individual, separated shapes.

36. (Withdrawn) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 35, wherein the array comprises a uniform distribution of the shapes.

37. (Withdrawn) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 23, wherein the plurality of lines comprises an array of concentric closed loops around a center of the microwave packaging material.

38. (Withdrawn) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 37, wherein the concentric closed loops comprise circles.

al 39. (Withdrawn) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 23, wherein the plurality of lines comprises an array of segments suggesting concentric loops around a center of the microwave packaging material, wherein the segments are perpendicular to radii extending from the center.

40. (Withdrawn) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 39, wherein the indentation pattern further comprises radii extending approximately from the center of the microwave packaging material, and wherein the segments intersect the radii.

41. (Withdrawn) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 23, wherein at least one of the plurality lines is formed as interrupted segments.

42-88. (Canceled)

89. (Currently Amended) A microwave packaging material comprising:  
a substrate; and

an indentation pattern formed in the nature of a scored impression in the substrate;  
wherein

~~the microwave packaging material supports a food product;~~  
~~the food product overlies at least a portion of the indentation pattern; and~~  
~~the portion of the indentation pattern directs moisture migration underneath~~  
the food product.

90. (Currently Amended) A microwave packaging material comprising:  
a substrate; and  
an indentation pattern formed in only one side of the substrate; ~~wherein~~  
~~the microwave packaging material supports a food product;~~  
~~the indentation pattern creates a gap filled with air between the microwave~~  
~~packaging material and a cooking platform in a microwave oven when the microwave~~  
~~packaging material is placed in the microwave oven; and~~  
~~the air in the gap provides insulation between the microwave packaging~~  
~~material and the cooking platform during operation of the microwave, reducing the effect of~~  
~~the cooking platform as a heat sink and improving the cooking ability of the microwave~~  
~~packaging material.~~

91. (Currently Amended) A microwave packaging material comprising:  
a substrate; and  
an indentation pattern formed in the substrate~~[[;]]~~, wherein the substrate maintains  
intermediate, flat, coplanar surfaces between portions of the indentation pattern  
~~the microwave packaging material supports a food product;~~  
~~the indentation pattern creates a gap between the microwave packaging~~  
~~material and a cooking platform in a microwave oven when the microwave packaging~~  
~~material is placed in the microwave oven; and~~  
~~when microwave energy generated by the microwave oven propagates through~~  
~~the gap, the incidence of microwave energy impinging upon the food product increases and~~  
~~the heating ability of the microwave oven is improved.~~

92. (New) The microwave packaging material of claim 1, 2, 3, 89, 90, or 91  
wherein  
the microwave packaging material supports a food product;  
the food product overlies at least a portion of the indentation pattern; and  
the portion of the indentation pattern directs moisture migration underneath the food  
product.

93. (New) The microwave packaging material of claim 1, 2, 3, 89, 90, or 91  
wherein  
the microwave packaging material supports a food product;  
the indentation pattern creates a gap filled with air between the microwave packaging  
material and a cooking platform in a microwave oven when the microwave packaging

material is placed in the microwave oven; and

the air in the gap provides insulation between the microwave packaging material and the cooking platform during operation of the microwave, reducing the effect of the cooking platform as a heat sink and improving the cooking ability of the microwave packaging material.

94. (New) The microwave packaging material of claim 1, 2, 3, 89, 90, or 91 wherein

the microwave packaging material supports a food product;

the indentation pattern creates a gap between the microwave packaging material and a cooking platform in a microwave oven when the microwave packaging material is placed in the microwave oven; and

when microwave energy generated by the microwave oven propagates through the gap, the incidence of microwave energy impinging upon the food product increases and the heating ability of the microwave oven is improved.

95. (New) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 89, 90, or 91, wherein the indentation pattern comprises a convex area on at least one side of the substrate.

96. (New) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 95, wherein the microwave packaging material supports a food product; and the convex area provides a barrier that directs moisture migration from a first area underneath the food product to a second area underneath the food product.

97. (New) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 95, wherein the microwave packaging material supports a food product; and the convex area provides a barrier that directs moisture migration from a first area underneath the food product to a second area not covered by the food product.

98. (New) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 95, wherein the microwave packaging material supports a food product; and the convex area provides a barrier that prevents moisture from migrating from a first area underneath the food product to a second area underneath the food product.

99. (New) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 95, wherein the microwave packaging material supports a food product; and the indentation pattern comprises the convex area on a side of the substrate opposite the food product;



the convex area creates a gap between the microwave packaging material and a cooking platform in a microwave oven when the microwave packaging material is placed in the microwave oven; and

when microwave energy generated by the microwave oven propagates through the gap, the incidence of microwave energy impinging upon the food product increases and the heating ability of the microwave oven is improved.

100. (New) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 89, 90, or 91, wherein the indentation pattern comprises a concave area on at least one side of the substrate.

101. (New) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 100, wherein the microwave packaging material supports a food product; and the concave area provides a channel that allows moisture to migrate from a first area underneath the food product to a second area underneath the food product.

102. (New) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 100, wherein the microwave packaging material supports a food product; and the concave area provides a channel that allows moisture to migrate from a first area underneath the food product to a second area not covered by the food product.

103. (New) The microwave packaging material as described in claim 100, wherein the microwave packaging material supports a food product; and the concave area provides a channel that prevents moisture from migrating from a first area underneath the food product to a second area underneath the food product.